

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-10 L-03 ACDA-12
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 SP-02 ICA-11 TRSE-00 DODE-00
IO-13 /085 W
-----083482 061323Z /43

R 061135Z JUN 78
FM USMISSION USBERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6940
AMEMBASSY BONN
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 USBERLIN 1310

USEEC

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, BQG, AKB, EEC
SUBJECT: SELECTING CANDIDATES FOR THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

REF: (A) BONN 9525, (B) USBERLIN 1110, (C) USBERLIN 1115

SUMMARY: MISSION OFFICER MET WITH SENAT CHANCELLERY DIRECTOR
HEIMANN MAY 26 TO DISCUSS GOVERNING MAYOR STOBBE'S PROPOSAL
THAT EC PARLIAMENTARY CANDIDATE SELECTION BE LINKED TO MARCH
1979 BERLIN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ELECTION. SELECTION
OF EC PARLIAMENTARY DEPUTIES WILL BE CARRIED OUT EXACTLY LIKE
SELECTION OF BUNDESTAG DEPUTIES. HEIMANN INDICATED STOBBE
HAD NOT GIVEN MUCH THOUGHT TO DETAILS OF HIS PROPOSAL TO LINK
CANDIDATE SELECTION FOR EC PARLIAMENT TO MARCH HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES ELECTIONS, BUT HEIMANN DOUBTED THERE WOULD BE
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ANY FORMAL LINKAGE OF TWO PROCEDURES. PRINCIPAL PURPOSE
OF STOBBE'S REMARKS, AS REPORTED PREVIOUSLY, HAD BEEN TO
PUT CDU CHAIRMAN LORENZ INTO POLITICALLY DIFFICULT POSI-
TION. END SUMMARY.

1. CHAIRMAN U.S. SENAT LIAISON OFFICER CALLED ON SENAT
CHANCELLERY DIRECTOR HEIMANN MAY 26 AAS AUTHORIZED (REF A)

TO DISCUSS GOVERNING MAYOR STOBBE'S SUGGESTION THAT SELECTION OF EC PARLIAMENTARY CANDIDATES BE LINKED TO MARCH 1979 BERLIN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ELECTION. APPARENTLY HEIMANN HAD BEEN FORWARDED OF PURPOSE OF VISIT BY FRG BONN GROUP REP (REF A), MAKING PRETENSE OF "LOW KEY" APPROACH SOMEWHAT SUPERFLUOUS. HEIMANN WENT RIGHT TO POINT NOTING THAT EC PARLIAMENTARIANS WOULD BE SELECTED BY BERLIN HOUSE IN IDENTICAL FASHION TO THAT USED TO SELECT BERLIN'S REPRESENTATIVES IN THE BUNDESTAG.

2. REFERRING TO STOBBE'S PROPOSAL, HEIMANN SAID HE HAD NOT DISCUSSED DETAILS WITH THE GOVERNING MAYOR, BUT WOULD DO SO IF ALLIES SO WISHED. CHAIRMAN SENAT LIAISON OFFICER INDICATED THIS WAS NOT NECESSARY AT THE PRESENT TIME. HEIMANN THEN SAID THAT NO PARTICULAR THOUGHT HAD BEEN GIVEN TO HOW ONE MIGHT LINK THE SELECTION OF EC PARLIAMENTARIANS TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CAMPAIGN, IF INDEED ANY LINK WAS TO BE MADE AT ALL. IT BECAME VERY CLEAR DURING THE DISCUSSION THAT THE GOVERNING MAYOR HAD MADE HIS PROPOSAL AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE AS A TACTICAL MANEUVER DESIGNED TO EMBARRASS LORENZ. (ADDRESSEES MAY KNOW THAT LORENZ WOULD LIKE TO GO TO BRUSSELS AS AN EC PARLIAMENTARIAN IF HE IS DEFEATED IN MARCH.) HEIMANN NOTED THAT LORENZ HAS ALREADY INDICATED HE DOES NOT AGREE WITH THE GOVERNING MAYOR'S PROPOSAL. IT IS NOT ENTIRELY CERTAIN, THEREFORE, THAT THE GOVERNING MAYOR'S SUGGESTION

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WOULD BE ACTED ON BY ALL THREE PARTIES.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 USBERLIN 1310

3. HEIMANN SAID THAT IT IS ALMOST CERTAIN THAT AT SOME POINT DURING THE CAMPAIGN THE QUESTION OF BERLIN'S RELATIONSHIP TO WESTERN EUROPE AND SPECIFICALLY TO THE EC WILL COME UP AS A CAMPAING ISSUE. IN THIS CONTEXT, HEIMANN NOTED, IT IS NOT ONLY LIKELY BUT VERY NATURAL THAT BERLIN'S REPRESENTATION IN THE EC PARLIAMENT WILL BE GIVEN SOME ATTENTION. HEIMANN GAVE HIS PERSONAL OPINION, HOWEVER, THAT BERLIN'S REPRESENTATION IN THE EC PARLIAMENT, AND THE SPECIFIC CANDIDATES FOR THE EC PARLIAMENT, WOULD PLAY AN EXTREMELY SMALL ROLE IN THE CAMPAIGN. BY WAY OF COMPARISON HEIMANN POINTED OUT THAT VIRTUALLY NO BERLINER ASSOCIATES THE ELECTION OF BUNDESTAG DEPUTIES, WHO ARE CHOSEN BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, WITH THE SELECTION OF THE HOUSE MEMBERS THEMSELVES. SIMILARLY, HEIMANN SAID HE SERIOUSLY DOUBTS THAT BERLINERS WILL THINK ABOUT THE FACT THEY ARE SELECTING "THE ELECTORS" FOR THE EC PARLIAMENTARY CANDIDATES WHEN
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THEY VOTE IN MARCH 1979. THE ONLY THING WHICH WILL MATTER ON THAT ELECTION DAY WILL BE THE SELECTION OF A GOVERNING MAYOR.

4. HEIMANN ASKED WHAT THE ALLIES' SPECIFIC RESERVATIONS TO THE GOVERNING MAYOR'S PROPOSAL WERE. MISSOFF REPLIED THAT THERE WAS A CONCERN THAT IT MIGHT APPEAR TO SOME THAT BERLIN WAS ATTEMPTING TO USE THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ELECTION AS AN "ERSATZ" DIRECT ELECTION PROCEDURE. SUCH AN IMPRESSION WOULD BE STRENGTHENED WERE, FOR EXAMPLE, ELECTION POSTERS PUT UP FOR THE EC CANDIDATES, OR IF THEIR NAMES WERE TO APPEAR ON BALLOTS OR CAMPAIGN LITERATURE. HEIMANN STRESSED THAT IT WAS NOT THE DESIRE OF THE GOVERNING MAYOR OR ANYONE ELSE IN BERLIN TO ATTEMPT TO GO BEHIND THE INTENT OF ALLIED RESERVATIONS ON DIRECT ELECTIONS FOR THE EC PARLIAMENT. HE COULD NOT IMAGINE THAT THE EC PARLIAMENTARY CANDIDATES WOULD APPEAR ON THE BALLOT. HE DID NOT RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY, HOWEVER, THAT AN INDIVIDUAL POLITICAL PARTY MIGHT WISH TO INCLUDE EC PARLIAMENTARY CANDIDATES IN THEIR ELECTORAL

CAMPAIGN MATERIALS.

5. SUMMING UP, HEIMANN TOLD MISOFF THAT THE ALLIES COULD BE ASSURED THAT THERE WAS NO INTENTION OF GOING BEHIND THE ALLIES' BACK IN LINKING PARTY NOMINATIONS FOR THE EC PARLIAMENT TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ELECTION. WITH A CERTAIN DEGREE OF EMBARRASSMENT, HEIMANN CONCEDED THAT STOBBE'S REMARKS WERE PRIMARY INTENDED AS A POLITICAL THRUST TO EMBARRASS HIS PRIMARY OPPOSITION CANDIDATE. IT WOULD BE A MISTAKE, THEREFORE, HEIMANN INDICATED, TO READ MORE IMPORTANCE INTO THE GOVERNING MAYOR'S STATEMENT.

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6. WE ARE SATISFIED WITH HEIMANN'S COMMENTS. IT IS CLEAR THAT ALLIED CONCERNS HAVE BEEN REGISTERED. (HEIMANN TOOK NOTES DURING THE CONVERSATION.) THE SPD HAS BEEN ALERTED TO OUR CONCERN. THE CDU DOES NOT LIKE THE GOVERNING MAYOR'S PROPOSAL, AND UNDER THE D'HONDT PROPORTIONAL SELECTION METHOD USED FOR CHOOSING CANDIDATES THE FDP DOES NOT STAND A CHANCE TO HAVE ONE OF ITS MEMBERS ELECTED. FOR THE TIME BEING, THEREFORE, WE FEEL THERE IS NO NEED TO DISCUSS THE MATTER FURTHER WITH THE SENAT OR THE GOVERNING MAYOR. GEORGE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, ELECTIONS, MEETING DELEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978USBERL01310
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780236-0121
Format: TEL
From: USBERLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780689/aaaacyrv.tel
Line Count: 199
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 95575e90-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 BONN 9525, 78 USBERLIN 1110, 78 USBERLIN 1115
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2463961
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SELECTING CANDIDATES FOR THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT
TAGS: PGOV, BQG, AKB, EEC
To: STATE BONN MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/95575e90-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014